



Vegetables

Virginia vegetable producers experience another near normal growing season in 2006. Spring began with mild temperatures and dry conditions that were good for field preparations but hindered early growth of some vegetable crops. Much needed rain came late in the spring and in early summer months improving the vegetable crop conditions. The Commonwealth experienced unseasonably high temperatures throughout the summer. As the summer progressed, dry conditions returned, but moisture levels improved in the fall due to plenty of rainfall. Virginia's fresh market vegetable producers harvested 18,800 acres of crop, valued at over \$121 million in 2006. These numbers compare to 19,150 acres and \$111 million last year. Snap bean, sweet corn, and tomato yields

increased, while cabbage, cucumber, and watermelon yields decreased as compared to 2005. When compared to last year, cucumber, sweet corn, tomato, and watermelon prices increased by \$5.00, \$0.30, \$1.60, and \$1.30 per hundredweight respectively. On the other hand, cabbage price decreased by \$5.30 per hundredweight, and snap bean price decreased by \$1.00 per hundredweight.

The value of major vegetables grown for processing in Virginia totaled \$620,000, up from \$423,000 last year. Harvested acres of processing vegetables were up 250 acres as compared to the previous year.

SELECTED VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET, 2006

	Planted -acres-	Harvested -acres-	Yield -cwt-	Production -000 cwt-	Dollars -per cwt-	Total -000 dols.-
Cabbage	850	800	190	152	9.20	1,398
Cucumbers	2,000	1,900	60	114	18.10	2,063
Snap Beans	5,300	5,000	53	265	36.00	9,540
Sweet Corn	3,600	3,500	92	322	17.20	5,538
Tomatoes	5,900	5,800	385	2,233	44.20	98,699
Watermelon	1,900	1,800	190	342	11.80	4,036
Total	19,550	18,800		3,428		121,274

TOTAL VEGETABLES FOR PROCESSING, 2006 ^{1/}

Planted -acres-	Harvested -acres-	Production -tons-	Total -000 dols.-
790	760	3,200	620

^{1/} Includes snap beans and sweet corn.